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Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Ventilago madraspatana Gaertn. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." Indian Medicinal Plants. (1918)].

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Pankaj Oudhia

Introduction

Based on Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 in different parts of India Pankaj Oudhia has documented vital information about Medicinal Plants mentioned in the famous publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Through this research document Pankaj Oudhia has tried to present original document with additional notes. For complete paper with pictures, Interactive Tables, Video and Audio clips please visit pankajoudhia.com

For original publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918) please visit <https://archive.org/details/indianmedicinalp01kirt>

284. Ventilago madraspatana Gaertn. H. p. b. I.,
i. 631.

Sans. : — Raktavalli.

Vern. : — Pitti (H.) ; Raktapita (B.) ; Chorgu (Hyderabad) ;

Kroti pitti (C. P.) ; Lokandi, kanwail (Bomb.) ; Ragatarohado

(Guz.) ; Luri-chakka (Dec.) ; Pappili-chakka, suralpattai, lurala

chaki, surate cheka, papli, vembadain, veinpadon (Triman)

(Tarn.) ; Surabi ; papri Kali-bili (Dun) ; Bonga-Sarjom (Kol.)

petli tige, lurala tige, arra chiratali (Tel) ; Paipli-chakka, papli,

popli (Kan.) ; yaccaduvel (Sinhalese).

Habitat : — Western Peninsula, from the Concan southward.

Tenasserim. Throughout the plains of India. Forests of Burma and Ceylon, in hot dry places.

A large, much-branched, woody climber or climbing shrub.

Bark grey white. Vertical cracks, exposing the inner surface

which has a vermilion colour. Wood yellow, porous, soft ;

branchlets elongated, slender, younger parts, branchlets, petioles

and young leaves pubescent.

A very conspicuous forest climber, climbing over the

tallest trees and hanging its branches down in festoons (Gamble).

Tendrils woody. Leaves 1|-5in. (usually about 2|), ovate, ovate-

lanceolate, obtuse or rounded at base, acuminate, obtuse or

rarely acute, shallowly crenate-serrate or entire, glabrous and

shining ; lateral veins 6-10 in each side, fine but conspicuous,

oblique, connected by very fine transverse reticulation. Petiole,

ii'in., stipules very small, lanceolate, pubescent. Flowers pale green, ^ in., numerous, on short pubescent pedicels, arranged in clusters on the branches of large spreading and drooping, pubescent, elongated, terminal panicles. Calyx pubescent, lobes erect, very acute. Petals shorter than calyx, 2-lobed. Stamens as long as petals. Styles short. Nut small, globular, supported on persistent calyx. Wing 1-1½ in. linear oblong, 1 athery, pubescent, slightly, bifid at apex.

N. 0. RHAMNEJE. 333

Part used : — The root-bark. [**Pankaj Oudhia's Comment:** *All parts are used as medicine. The insects attacking Ventilago in wild are used by Traditional Entomotherapists specially with indigenous medicinal rice. Please see Tables Venti-1 to Venti-30 for details.*]

Uses: — The powdered root-bark is carminative, stomachic, tonic and stimulant ; useful in atonic dyspepsia, debility and slight cases of fever (Moodeen Sheriff).

The powdered bark (mixed with gingelly oil) is also said to be sometimes used in South India as an external application

for itch and other skin diseases (Watt). **[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *Through Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 I have collected information about over 350,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations in which Ventilago parts are added as primary, secondary, tertiary, septenary, octonary and denary ingredients. Modern researchers have done very little to validate these Traditional Herbal Formulations. The senior Traditional Healers use different herbal extracts to enrich wild population of Ventilago with desired medicinal properties through Traditional Allelopathic Knowledge. Please see Tables Venti-31 to Venti-300 for details.***

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Ventilago Madraspatana.

On treating this dye-stuff with carbon bisulphide five crystalline substances are extracted, together with a wax and a resinous colouring matter.

1. A substance of the formula $C_{16}H_{12}O_5$. This crystallises in long, orange-red needles, melting at 200° ; it sublimes at higher temperatures, partially carbonising. Its alkaline solutions have a purple tint, and the

corresponding salt can be obtained in the form of violet-colored needles sparingly soluble in alcohol. There is a great deal of similarity in appearance, properties, and melting point between emodin from *Rhamnus frangula* and this substance. They are probably identical.

2. A substance of the formula $C_{16}H_{14}O_4$ (A). This forms long, colourless needles, which decompose at about 260° before melting ; it is soluble in alkaline solutions with a yellowish brown coloration.

3. A substance of the formula $C_{16}H_{14}O_4$ (B). This crystallises in pale yellow needles melting at 173° . With acetic anhydride, it yields what is probably a triacetyl compound melting at $227-229^\circ$, the alcoholic solution of which has a strong blue fluorescence. It dissolves in alkalis forming yellowish brown solutions which on long exposure to air become red, and on treatment with acid yield a precipitate of emodin methyl ether.

4. A substance of the formula $C_{16}H_{14}O_8$. This is an orange-red, crystalline powder, which, when heated, begins to darken at 260° , and melts and carbonises at $275-280^\circ$. It is distinguished from the preceding substances by its sparing solubility in most solvents. Solutions of the alkalis dissolve it with an orange-red coloration, and it yields an acetyl derivative, $C_{10}H_7O_8$ (C_2H_3O), which crystallises in yellow needles melting and decomposing at $216-220^\circ$.

5. A substance of the formula $C_{17}H_{12}O_5$. This is a chocolate-colored, crystalline powder. When treated with dilute alkali, it dissolves with a yellow coloration, but on exposure to air the solution deposits a blue, amorphous precipitate, and it therefore appears to contain in its molecule a reduced quinone group.

6. The wax $(C_{29}H_{58}O)_n$, consists of nearly colourless, minute needles, melting at 72° .

334 INDIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS.

7. The colon ring matter is a reddish-brown, brittle resin of the formula $C_{15}H_{14}O_6$, and, up to the present, has resisted all attempts to obtain it in a crystalline condition, It softens at about 100° , and melts at $100-110^\circ$. Dilute alkalis dissolve it with a purple-violet coloration, and the corresponding salts are obtained as violet, amorphous precipitates, on adding common salts to these solutions. From its nature and properties, it appears possible that it is allied to alkanin, $C_{15}H_{14}O_4$, the colouring matter of the roots of the *Anchusa tinctoria*. Alkanin is also of a resinous nature. It is possible,

therefore, that the coloring matter of the Ventilago madraspatana, for which the name of ventilagin is proposed, is represented by alkanin containing two additional hydroxyl groups.— J. Ch. S. T. 1894, p. 924 et seq.

E-documents on Ventilago

<http://ecoport.org/ep?SearchType=articleList&Author=oudhia&...>

Citation

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